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TWICE A WEEK, \$1.50 A YEAR.

## Adjournment Sine Die At Daylight Sunday Morning

### REVIEW OF WORK OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### IMPORTANT MEASURES WHICH WERE ENACTED.

#### State Levy Six and One-Half Mills, But Large Amount Authorized to Be Borrowed.

(By JNO. K. AULL.)

Special to The Herald and News.

Columbia, Feb. 21.—With the legislative clocks registering somewhere around 11 o'clock Saturday night, the general assembly got through with the work of the 1916 session and adjourned sine die at 5:35 o'clock on Sunday morning. An effort was made in the senate between 11 and 12 o'clock Saturday night to adjourn until Monday, so as not to work on Sunday, but it failed. The motion was made by Senator Johnstone, of Newberry, and urged by Senator Sharpe, of Lexington. The members, however, were determined to get through with the work and go home.

#### The Appropriation Bill.

The free conference report on the appropriation bill was received before midnight, and was adopted in both houses. The bill then had to be prepared in the engrossing department and sent to Gov. Manning. As finally ratified, it fixed the State levy at six and one-half mills, carrying approximately \$2,477,531.29. The levy is a half mill less than last year, while the amount is \$14,000 larger. The conference committee cut \$50,000 out of the State hospital extension work appropriation, making it \$100,000, but allowed the governor to borrow an additional \$50,000 if it should be found necessary. The fund for prohibition enforcement remained at \$50,000, to be borrowed if necessary. The salary of the superintendent of the State hospital for the insane was fixed at \$6,000, the conference committee adopting the senate amendment in this regard. Twenty-five thousand dollars is to be borrowed, if necessary, to pay the federal government for lost militia equipment.

#### Liquor Legislation.

The session was characterized by drastic laws dealing with the liquor traffic. The prohibition act which was submitted to the people in the general election last fall was re-enacted, to prevent any cloud resting upon the legality of the statute in any possible future contest. The amount which any person in the State may order during any calendar month was cut down from a gallon to two quarts, but one may order 60 pints of beer in lieu of the two quarts. The measure first contained a provision that any amount of liquor carried in a suitcase or traveling bag would require the suitcase or traveling bag to be labeled to the effect that it contained liquor. This section was finally cut out as was also the portion of the bill which would have prohibited a man from giving a drink to his friend.

The Liles measure which makes the punishment for selling liquor a straight chain gang sentence, without the alternative of a fine, was ratified, and has been signed by the governor. Mr. Liles being presented with the pen with which the act was signed. Early in the session an act was passed making drunkenness on the highway a misdemeanor. Heretofore, in order to constitute a misdemeanor, the drunkard had to be accompanied by some disorderly conduct but no disorderly conduct is necessary now. An act was also passed to include "go-betweens" in liquor purchases.

Then, the legislature has placed \$50,000 at the disposal of the governor to enforce the prohibition law. True it is not a direct appropriation, the governor being authorized to borrow

if it becomes necessary, which means that the State will have to pay interest on the amount and the next legislature will have to bear the burden of fixing a levy to cover such expenditure as may be made. This is also true as to any amount which may be borrowed for the State hospital and the militia.

It is not yet a crime to take a drink, but under a strict construction of the act, it is pretty nearly a crime to keep the two quarts one may order after he gets it.

#### Left-over Dispensary Stocks.

For a while it looked as if the counties which had left-over dispensary stocks were going to be allowed to keep them without any measure being provided for their disposal, but finally local bills began to be introduced providing for the disposal of these stocks, and every county got through its measure allowing the left-over stocks to be sold at wholesale in wet territory outside the State.

Mr. J. K. Breedin, who was largely interested in the prohibition election last fall, issued a statement the other day in which he pointed out that tampering with the law as it was ratified by the people last September was dangerous in that it would tend to breed discontent and put the question of prohibition back into a political campaign—or words to that effect. The legislature, however, did not seem disposed to see it that way, and every measure making the liquor laws more stringent found ready support both in the house and in the senate.

About the only one that did not get through was the Carlisle bill, which passed the senate, but failed in the house, prohibiting the newspapers from publishing whiskey advertisements.

#### Constitutional Amendments Failed.

The three constitutional amendments of State wide importance which were offered during the session all failed. They were as follows:

To submit to the people a constitutional amendment providing for woman suffrage.

To submit to the people a constitutional amendment allowing divorce in certain cases.

To submit to the people a constitutional amendment for biennial sessions of the general assembly.

None of the proposed amendments could secure the necessary two-thirds in either house.

#### Administration Measures.

Among the "administration" measures which were ratified was the act providing for the Torrens system of land registration, which is optional at this time; the measure for a board of conciliation to act in disputes between capital and labor; the McCullough child labor bill, prohibiting the working of children under 14 years of age, in mills, mines or textile establishments, after the first of next year, and the strengthening of the tax commission act by providing for a board of review. This board of review was in the act as it was passed last year, but in some manner was lost out of the bill before it went to the governor for signature.

The McCullough child labor bill as it was finally ratified is a marvel in brevity. It contains exactly 25 words. It simply provides that after the first day of January, 1917, no child under the age of 14 years shall be employed in any mill, mine or textile establishment in South Carolina.

The workmen's compensation act, which was one of the "administration" measures, failed of passage. The employers' liability act, however, was passed. This act follows the federal statute and makes that statute effective in South Carolina. It eliminates the doctrine of contributory negligence of employees and also eliminates punitive damages. The representatives in the legislature of the la-

boring people were favorable to this measure, but opposed the workmen's compensation act.

#### Weekly Pay in Mills.

On the last day of the session the bill was passed and ratified requiring weekly pay days in mills. The representatives in the legislature of the laboring element were intensely interested in this bill, and are very proud of its passage.

#### Driving Out the Southeastern.

One of the hardest fights of the entire session was on the measure prohibiting insurance combinations for the purpose of fixing fire insurance rates. This bill was aimed directly at the Southeastern Tariff Association, and the State warehouse system figured largely in its discussion. The bill was not introduced at the instance of the warehouse commissioner, but during the fight for and against the bill the commissioner was day after day summoned before committees. There is no doubt that the reduction in fire insurance secured by the commissioner outside of the Southeastern and the refusal of the Southeastern to work with the commissioner in the protection of State cotton had a great deal to do with the passage of the bill. There was a clear majority in the house of some 22 members for the abolition of the Southeastern. On Thursday night the members who were trying to save the Southeastern instituted a filibuster which kept the house in session until after 3 o'clock Friday morning, but the majority against them was determined, and the bill was shoved through by main force. During this filibuster Speaker Hoyt was firm in his rulings, and rejected a great deal of credit upon himself by the manner in which he handled a most difficult situation. The bill was piloted through the senate by Senator Laney of Chesterfield, and through the house by Mr. Odom of Chesterfield, and the agricultural committee.

The bill was ratified and sent to the governor on Saturday night. It prohibits combinations of insurance companies for the purpose of fixing rates; provides for a review of rates by the insurance commissioner, subject to summary court review; exempts the Mill Mutuals and Factory Insurance association, and provides that nothing contained in the act shall be held to interfere with any insurance placed by or through the State warehouse commissioner.

#### State Warehouse Commissioner.

The strength of the State warehouse commissioner was clearly evidenced during the session. On the part of some there was opposition to him and to the system, but practically every request which he made of the legislature was granted. In fact, it may be stated with truth that prohibition and warehouse system were the dominant issues in the South Carolina legislature of 1916. They had no connection and there was no attempt to connect them, and their being mentioned together is not intended to convey this meaning. What is meant to be conveyed is the fact, as shown by the records, that on every issue joined affecting prohibition or the warehouse system, either commanded an overwhelming majority of both house and senate.

There was only one measure which was advocated by the warehouse commissioner for the benefit of the farmers which failed of passage. This was the Beattie-Laney graders' bill. This bill would have enforced the federal standards in South Carolina, and have increased the annual value of the cotton crop to the farmers by at least a million dollars each year. The bill was killed in the senate before it reached the house.

It may be interesting to note how the members from Newberry voted on the bill to drive the Southeastern trust out of the State. On the passage of the bill in the senate there was no opposition. In the house Mr. Workman voted for the bill (to drive the Southeastern out) and Messrs.

Mower and Chapman voted against the bill (to allow the Southeastern to remain in the State). Over in the senate when the bill went back for concurrence in the house amendments, a test vote was had, and seven of the senators voted for non-concurrence, which would have put the bill in free conference and permitted another fight in the house. The senator from Newberry was among these seven.

#### Rural Credits Delayed.

The enactment of a rural credits system was delayed for another year, but a committee was appointed consisting of three members of the house and three members of the senate to compile data and to make recommendation to the next session of the general assembly. The senate committee is composed of Messrs. Williams, of Lancaster, Johnstone, of Newberry, and Sherard, of Anderson. The house committee is composed of Messrs. Toole, L. M. Rogers and Huffman.

#### The Public Printer.

The special committee on printing, which is composed of Senators Lee and Christensen and Representatives Cothran and Arnold, have elected W. R. Bradford, a representative in the house from York county, and a practical and experienced newspaper man and printer, clerk. Under the terms of the new printing bill, Mr. Bradford's duties will be to supervise the letting of all contracts for the public printing. His active duties will be for five months, for which he will receive a salary of \$1,000. Mr. Bradford is one of the best known newspaper men in the State, and the committee was fortunate in securing him as clerk, for he is not only efficient, but believes in rigid economy, and will undoubtedly save a great deal of money for the taxpayers.

Senator Christensen is the chairman of the committee, and the next meeting will be in Columbia on March 3rd.

#### The New Judicial Circuit.

The general assembly added another judicial circuit to the thirteen circuits of the State. The new arrangement leaves Charleston in a circuit by herself, and makes a new circuit of the counties of Colleton, Hampton, Beaufort and Jasper counties. Solicitor Peurifoy, who has heretofore served as solicitor of the old ninth circuit, which included Charleston, is moved to the new circuit, and Gov. Manning has appointed Mr. W. S. Grimbald, of Charleston, solicitor of the ninth, or Charleston circuit.

Following the declination of Representative George Warren, of Hampton, who was elected over his protest as judge of the new 14th circuit, the general assembly elected Mr. James E. Peurifoy of Walterboro, a brother of Solicitor Peurifoy, who will be the solicitor of the new circuit. So that the judge and the solicitor of the new circuit are brothers. Mr. Peurifoy was opposed for election by Mr. W. B. Gruber, also of Walterboro, but Mr. Peurifoy received a substantial majority of the joint assembly. The appropriation bill carried \$5,500 on account of the new circuit.

#### McCormick County.

The legislature added another county to the 44 counties of the State, provided the case now pending in the supreme court is not adverse to the new county on the legal aspect of the matter. Governor Manning on Saturday signed the new county measure. There was very little opposition in the legislature to the formation of McCormick county. There were a number of gentlemen before the committee of the senate in advocacy of the new county.

#### Abuse of Free Scholarships.

A stringent resolution directing the State board of charities to investigate the financial standing of those enjoying free scholarships in the State's educational institutions, was adopted as the outcome of the fight in the general assembly against the abuse of free scholarships. The board of charities is to look into the financial condition of the scholarship holders,

their parents, guardians and other persons liable under the law for their support, and to make report to the board of trustees of each institution. It is made the duty of these boards to act upon the report submitted to them and to revoke or allow the beneficiary scholarships or free tuition as in their judgment the justice of each case may require. The law does not affect free scholarships now held.

#### Closing Scenes.

When the gavels of Lieutenant Governor Bethea and Speaker James A. Hoyt fell for the last time and the members of the general assembly trudged out on Sunday morning, the first streaks of dawn were visible in the east. The end was calm and peaceful, and there was much wringing of hands and expressions of mutual esteem and friendship as the various members bade one another good-bye and turned their faces homeward.

The entire time of both houses from the moment they assembled at 8 o'clock Saturday night until they broke up at daylight Sunday morning was taken up with details incident to the close. This consisted for the most part in adopting free conference reports and ratifying bills. The houses spent most of the time in recess, subject to the call of the chair.

#### Music in the Air.

The usual jollification scenes occupied a large place in the final night. The piano, which has stood for several days in the lobby of the State house, was rolled into the house of representatives and the members gathered around it singing the old familiar tunes which are always a feature of the last night of the session. As the night wore on and the fact that the parting would soon come was realized, the songs drifted more and more to the sentimental, culminating in the patriotic. A tariff went throughout the house when the group around the piano broke into the national anthem, and the feeling found its climax in the outburst of handclapping and cheering when "Dixie" was heard.

Representatives Beckett, of Beaufort, with his violin accompanied the piano, greatly to the enjoyment and pleasure of the throng.

There were several mock sessions of the senate and house during the hours of waiting. Senator Hughes of Union, and Senator Lee, of Darlington, led the fun-making in the senate, and the clever manner in which they got off hits on the various senators was fully appreciated by the crowd. Reading Clerk Hutchinson, of the house, was called in to act as reading clerk of the senate at the mock session and this he did in his usual happy way. He was particularly good in his burlesque bills on the pet subjects which various senators have kept to the front during the session.

On the house side Representative Odom, of Chesterfield, and Representative Massey of Lancaster, were the speakers for the mock session, and they are a good team.

#### Winding Up the Business.

There were several resolutions put through just before final adjournment. The senate concurred in the house resolution requesting the senators and congressmen from this state to vote for the bill now before congress to pension Confederate soldiers and their widows.

The following senate appointments of various committees for the ensuing year were announced by President Bethea:

Committee on penal and charitable institutions—Senator Geo. M. Stuckey of Lee; committee on State educational institutions—Senator Huger Sinkler of Charleston; committee on quarters for State officers—Senator J. M. Nickels of Abbeville, and Senator T. H. Ketchin, of Fairfield; committee to investigate rural credits and make recommendation to the legislature as provided by resolution, session 1916—Senator D. R. Williams of Lancaster; Senator Alan Johnstone of Newberry; Senator J. L. Sherard of Anderson; committee on State printing, provided for in act of 1916—Senator Niels

Christensen of Beaufort and Senator C. D. Lee of Darlington.

Speaker Hoyt appointed the following committees:

On rural credits, Messrs. Toole, L. M. Rogers and Huffman.

On penal and charitable institutions: Messrs. Rush and S. A. Graham.

Educational institutions: Messrs. Berry and Wingard.

On work of the code commissioner, Messrs. Carey and J. F. Walker, Jr.

#### Resolutions of Thanks.

With Senator Alan Johnstone in the chair, the senate adopted resolutions thanking the presiding officer, clerks, attaches and all others connected with the body, for their faithfulness and devotion to duty. The following resolution offered by Senator Carlisle was adopted by the senate:

Resolved, That on the eve of its adjournment, the senate desires again to put on record its high appreciation of the ability, courtesy and dignity with which its president, the Hon. Andrew J. Bethea, has discharged the difficult and delicate duties of his office.

"Resolved, further, that the president's official robe be presented to the Hon. Andrew J. Bethea lieutenant governor."

The lieutenant governor was also presented by Senator Alan Johnstone of Newberry, with a beautiful gold watch fob from the attaches of the senate. The lieutenant governor in fitting words expressed his appreciation of the resolution and the gift.

#### Speaker Hoyt Thanked.

During the closing hours of the session Speaker Hoyt, of the house, was thanked for the ability and fairness with which he had presided during the session, and was presented by the house with a handsome silver pitcher. Chairman Liles, of the ways and means committee, was presented by the committee with two silver pieces, and Representative Geo. M. Reid of Anderson county was presented by the agricultural committee and the advocates of the Laney-Odom anti-Southeastern bill with a traveling bag taken as a token of appreciation of his assistance in breaking up the filibuster against that measure.

#### Final Adjournment.

It was a little past 5 o'clock when the house attended in the senate chamber and ratified the appropriation and county supply bills. These were immediately taken down to Governor Manning. E. C. Epps, was appointed to wait on the governor and notify him that the senate had transacted the business of the 1916 session and was ready to adjourn sine die. The committee returned and reported that the governor would communicate with them in a message. Close on their heels came Col. O. K. LaRoque, the governor's private secretary, with a message which was read in person by him. Governor Manning notified the senate that he had signed the appropriation bill and the county supply bill, and had no further communication for them. He commended them for the work which they had done and wished them God-speed. It was then that on motion of Senator Sharpe, the senate at 5:35 a. m. adjourned sine die. The house did likewise, and the session of 1916 was at an end.

#### His Car Upset.

Last Sunday afternoon Mr. W. T. Buford's car took a notion to skid while on the road about a mile from Mr. Buford's residence in the Bush River church community, and upsetting Mr. Buford under the car. Mr. Buford was riding alone when the accident happened and fortunately for him a negro tenant house was near and several negroes ran out and lifted the car off him. Mr. Buford was painfully bruised, the most serious injury being a gash in his leg which required about a dozen stitches. The cut was caused by the crashing of the windshield. Dr. Pope of Kinards, dressed the wound and Mr. Buford is getting on O. K.